

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



Director of Congressional Affairs

09 OCT 1987

~~Reprint. FYI~~

To: Bill Baker

Bill —

I know this fellow fairly well if it's of any use to you. We were classmates at a two week seminar at Harvard last summer.

Dave

CIA chief: We'll obey the rules

By James O'Shea
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON—William Webster, the newly appointed head of the CIA, has pledged that the intelligence agency will not conduct unauthorized covert actions. He said he will make some personnel changes after Congress issues its reports on the Iran-contra affair later this year.

Webster, who took over as head of the nation's Central Intelligence Agency four months ago, told reporters at a meeting Wednesday he would strengthen the office of the inspector general at the CIA to police activities and to provide a check against rogue operations.

A former appeals court judge from St. Louis, Webster was appointed CIA director by President Reagan after illness disabled Director William Casey and eventually led to his death. Webster had been director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Webster did not criticize Casey, whose involvement in the Iran-contra affair led to severe criticism of the CIA by Congress. But he outlined a course he would implement that contrasted sharply with Casey's policies. Webster said he would notify the appropriate congressional officials promptly of future covert CIA operations. "We're not going to have a foreign policy of our own," he said, "and we won't operate without a presidential finding," or authorization. Covert actions examined in the Iran-contra affair were conducted without proper congressional notification and with retroactive authorizations.

Webster said future covert operations would be consistent with the nation's foreign policy interests and that they would "make sense."

Earlier reports had said that Webster would attempt to force into retirement several CIA officials, including counterterrorism chief Duane Clarridge, for their roles in the Iran-contra affair. Webster said he has appointed a special counsel to examine all reports on the Iran arms deals and covert aid to the Nicaraguan rebels.

"He is not really conducting a separate investigation; he is planning to take all of this and help me make sense out of it in terms of what I ought to do [with regard to] individual players," Webster said of the special counsel. "It is vitally important to see that any action taken by me is seen as responsive to Congress but fair to the people at the agency."